

WorkFirst High Performance Bonus

Innovative Project

2002 Nomination Form

Name of project (use separate form for each nomination): Restorative Justice Relicensing Project

Local Planning Area: Spokane/Lincoln County LPA
 Contact: Albert Garza, Employment Security WorkFirst Manager
 Telephone: 509-532-3029
 E-mail: angarza@esd.wa.gov

Project period (only projects operating between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002 will be considered): July 1, 2001- June 30, 2002
 An interagency committee with state and local participation will review your nomination. Please keep your submission to 3 pages of narrative -- the nomination packet must not exceed 3 pages of narrative plus the signature page. Let us know if additional materials, such as marketing tools, newspaper clippings, evaluations, etc. are available upon request. We may request this information before making a final decision on the bonus.

1.	<p>Describe your project. (This section will be scored as 25% of the total points awarded.) You may want to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this project relate to the WorkFirst performance measures? • How many persons were served during SFY2002? Please list TANF and low-income persons separately. • If known, what was the cost per person served including operating and administrative costs? • What TANF purpose does this project address? The four purposes of TANF are on the WorkFirst website under Local Area Planning/ High Performance Bonus Awards/Expenditure Criteria at http://www.wa.gov/WORKFIRST/local/hpbacriteria.htm
	<p>The mission of the Washington WorkFirst program is to assist and support TANF recipient get a job, a better job and a better life. The Spokane/Lincoln county area Employment Security Department WorkFirst teams work hard to prepare its customers to become job ready and be competitive job seekers in our labor market. Many of our customers lack a basic tool that has prohibited many of them from finding, accepting and keeping a job. A valid Washington State Driver's License (WSDL).</p> <p>Without a valid Washington State Driver's License, many of our customers would be confronted with additional barriers concerning the transportation of their children to and from day care. In addition, many employers are reluctant to offer our customers employment when they discover that they do not have the ability to work unless they use the local bus system (can be seen as a possible attendance problem). Locally the bus system can be the answer but with the additional burden of children and maybe multiple day cares for children drop off and pick up, employment can result in a great deal of bus riding time if available at all. Also the potential of prosecution and possible jail time only adds to the stress of families already on the edge. Many of our customers do choose to drive their vehicles without a current WSDL. This only adds to the potential of another ticket, or even an accident with another licensed driver that would only increase a bad situation into an impossible outcome to overcome.</p> <p>With Employment and Retention a major part of WorkFirst performance goals it only seemed appropriate to coordinate a program to assist our customers reinstate their WSDL with the local Community Relicensing Project. This effort has directly benefited nine WorkFirst customers, of which four have gone to work and exited TANF in PY 2002 to date. Twenty-two are being determined for potential eligibility while more are being referred from the Spokane WorkFirst sites daily.</p>

2.	<p>What makes this project innovative? (This section will be scored as 50% of the total points awarded.) You may want to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What need was addressed and for what population? • How was the project designed? • What impact was desired? • Was there a client focus? Employer focus? • What has been learned? • Did this project simplify the program or its operations? • How did you measure the success of this project?
	<p>This project was designed to meet the needs of our TANF customers who were lacking a valid WSDL. The need was identified by a survey conducted by WorkFirst staff that facilitated weekly Job Clubs for WorkFirst customers to learn skills and job search techniques to better find employment. From that survey results, we saw a large portion of our customers did not have a current WSDL, and because of that they felt like finding a job would not be a positive event. If they were able to arrange bus transportation to get to work or do Job Search that resulted in spending an additional three to four hours a day on a bus. Because of this inconvenience they felt the likelihood of accepting a job or keeping one was limited. The desired impacts were too effectively educated and provide assistance to get our customers their WSDL reinstated. By helping our customers it would in turn benefit the local employers with more potential applicants to apply for current job openings. What we have seen from those who have started and completed this process is a more positive “can do” person with higher self esteem and generally a better attitude while looking for work, these traits make a job a much more obtainable goal for our customers. We have seen many of our customers take advantage of this program, but a lot do not qualify for this particular program because of the nature of the fines they have that prevent them from reinstating the license they once had. We have set up a payment process that was non-existent prior to our efforts and still market this program to our customers who feel that they have reached a dead end in their job search and fear it would be impossible to find work unless they have a current WSDL.</p>
3.	<p>Partnerships. (This section will be scored as 25% of the total points awarded.) You may want to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What partners were involved in the design of this project? • What partners supported this program in ways that contributed to its success? • Did you bring in new partners for this project? • Did you add new resources—funds, person power, other-in-kind contributions? • Did this project strengthen existing partnerships?
	<p>In order to develop this project it was necessary to coordinate with the Spokane Restorative Justice Program, Department of Licensing, Spokane County Prosecutors Office, Spokane District & Municipal Court Offices and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). All of the partners with the exception to DSHS were never in the past part of direct WorkFirst activities. We received overwhelming assistance and cooperation from all partners involved in this project. Any time we can come to our partners with another way that helps our customers gain any tool that can potentially help a family exist TANF we have receive total support and cooperation. Any time we can assist just one person get off TANF and become a working member of this State we can not possible determine the long term cash value added to our community.</p>

Are additional materials available upon request? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Please email this form and mail or FAX an additional page with the signatures of the mandatory partners in your Local Planning Area. All partners must agree to nominate this project.

Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2002 to:

Ruth (e-mail: ruthm@cted.wa.gov)
 OTED WorkFirst P.O. Box 42525
 Olympia, WA 98504-2525
 Physical Address: 128 10th Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98504-252
 FAX : 360/586-9319 Attn: Ruth

Phone: 360/725-4135